



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

AUG 21 2019

Mr. Kevin Bogardus  
E&E News  
122 C Street, NW, Suite 722  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Via email to: kbogardus@eenews.net

Re: HQ-2019-00326-F

Dear Mr. Bogardus:

This is the final response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You requested the following:

All records concerning communications between any individuals affiliated with and/or employed by the Department of Energy's Office of the Secretary and any individuals affiliated with and/or employed by the Trump Organization, the Ivanka Trump apparel and accessories brand, the Kushner Companies and/or Observer media from December 1 to December 31, 2018.

In an email on August 23, 2017, with Ms. Anjelica Ruda of my office, you agreed to amend your request to search the following DOE officials:

- The Secretary, Rick Perry;
- The Secretary's Chief of Staff, Brian McCormack;
- The Deputy Secretary, Brian Brouillette;
- Joseph Uddo;
- Wells Griffith.

Additionally, you agreed to amend the search to or from the following domains:

- "trump.com"
- "trumpgolf.com"
- "trumphotels.com"
- "trumpinternationalrealty.com"
- "trumpwinery.com"
- "ivankatrump.com"
- "kushner.com"
- "observer.com"
- "observedmedia.com".

Your request was assigned to the Office of the Executive Secretariat (ES) to conduct a search of its files for responsive documents. ES started its search on August 13, 2019, which is the cut-off date for responsive documents. ES has completed its search but did not locate any documents responsive to your request.



Therefore, pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), § 1004.4(d), I am unable to provide any responsive documents to your request for ES. Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(b)(2), I am responsible for the determination that no responsive records exist in ES.

The adequacy of the search may be appealed within 90 calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, L'Enfant Plaza, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-1615. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal by e-mail to [OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov](mailto:OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov), including the phrase "Freedom of Information Appeal" in the subject line. The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either (1) in the district where you reside, (2) where you have your principal place of business, (3) where DOE's records are situated, or (4) in the District of Columbia.

You may contact DOE's FOIA Public Liaison, Alexander Morris, FOIA Officer, Office of Public Information, at 202-586-5955, or by mail at MA-46/Forrestal Building 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

The FOIA provides for the assessment of fees for the processing of requests. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(i); *see also* 10 C.F.R. § 1004.9(a). In our prior correspondence, you were advised that your request was placed in the "news media" category for fee purposes. Requesters in this category are charged fees for duplication only and are provided 100 pages at no cost. DOE's processing costs did not exceed \$15.00, the minimum amount at which DOE assesses fees. Thus, no fees will be charged for processing your request.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request or this letter, you may contact Mr. Renee Harris, or me, at:

MA-46/ Forrestal Building  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585  
(202) 287-6733

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,



Alexander C. Morris  
FOIA Officer  
Office of Public Information